

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 2358

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/82

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: FIXED PERIOD OF TIME

REF: A. USNATO 2268; B. STATE 87593 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: APRIL 30 SPC DISCUSSION INDICATED TWO BASIC APPROACHES TO DETERMINING FIXED PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN PHASES I AND II OF MBFR:

- BY CALENDAR, I.E., BY SPECIFYING A PERIOD OF TIME FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF A SATISFACTORY FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT. US AND POSSIBLY NETHERLANDS ARE PRINCIPAL PROPONENTS OF THIS VIEW.

- BY EVENTS, I.E., KEYING BEGINNING PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS TO PARTIAL COMPLETION (BELGIAN VIEW) OR FULL COMPLETION (UK, FRG) OF SOVIET WITHDRAWALS.

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AD HOC DRAFTING GROUP WILL MEET ON MONDAY, MAY 6, TO DEVELOP DRAFT GUIDANCE TO AD HOC GROUP ON FIXED PERIOD ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION

BY CAPITALS. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE BY MAY 6 ON MISSION'S

SUGGESTED FORMULATION ON FIXED PERIOD (PARA 5 BELOW). END SUMMARY.

1. SPC REVIEWED PRELIMINARY IS DRAFT ON FIXED PERIOD OF TIME QUESTION. DRAFT REQUIRED FURTHER WORK AND, AT US SUGGESTION, SPC AGREED THAT AD HOC DRAFTING GROUP WOULD MEET ON MAY 6 TO PREPARE REVISED DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION BY CAPITALS.

2. DISCUSSION INDICATED TWO BASIC APPROACHES TO DETERMINE START OF PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS. FIRST APPROACH IS ALONG LINES OF REF B, I.E., ESTABLISH A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF MONTHS FOLLOWING SIGNATURE OF PHASE I AGREEMENT. ONE OBJECTION TO THIS APPROACH WAS THAT IT PROVIDES NO GUARANTEE THAT PRIOR TO ONSET OF PHASE II TALKS SOVIETS WILL EVEN BEGIN TO CARRY OUT PHASE I AGREEMENT. FOR STARTING POINT OF FIXED PERIOD, BELGIAN REP FAVORED "ENTRY INTO FORCE" FORMULA, WITH DANISH REP NOTED THAT AD HOC GROUP HAS USED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST (VIENNA 2829). BELGIAN REP EVENTUALLY AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS RAISED COMPLICATED QUESTIONS RELATED TO RATIFICATION, CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE, POSSIBLE DELAYS, ETC., AND SUGGESTED VAGUER FORMULA, "UPON SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT." DUTCH REP BELIEVED THAT NETHERLANDS MIGHT PREFER VERY SHORT PERIOD BETWEEN PHASES, AND MENTIONED THAT A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN THE HAGUE ON MAY 2 WOULD CONSIDER MATTER FURTHER.

3. APPROACH PREFERRED BY UK AND FRG IS TO MAKE ONSET OF PHASE II TALKS

CONTINGENT UPON COMPLETION OF SOVIET WITHDRAWALS AND TO ASK SOVIETS HOW MUCH TIME IT WOULD TAKE THEM TO WITHDRAW. THEY ARGUE THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD USE SOVIET INTEREST IN EARLY PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS AS BARGAINING LEVERAGE FOR PROMPT SOVIET WITHDRAWALS. THIS APPROACH ALSO REFLECTS THEIR MORE CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS PHASE II REDUCTIONS.

4. COMMENT: MISSION DOUBTS THAT ALLIES WILL AGREE TO SPECIFY A PERIOD OF TIME WITHOUT SOME ASSURANCES ON SOVIET WITHDRAWALS. WE ALSO SEE ADVANTAGES IN UK PROPOSAL FOR USING SOVIET INTEREST IN PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS AS BARGAINING LEVERAGE FOR EARLY SOVIET REDUCTIONS. WE WOULD THUS LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION ON MAY 6 TO
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BUILD AN APPROACH CONTAINED REF B TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THESE POINTS.

5. SPECIFICALLY, MISSION REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO TABLE FOLLOWING FORMULATION:

BEGIN TEXT -

IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET INQUIRIES ON HOW LONG THE "FIXED PERIOD OF TIME"

BETWEEN AGREEMENT ON PHASE I AND THE START OF PHASE II, THE ALLIES SHOULD ANSWER ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. ASSUMING THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PHASE I NEGOTIATIONS,

THE START OF PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD IN THE ALLIED VIEW NOT BE LATER THAN 18 MONTHS AFTER SIGNATURE OF A PHASE I AGREEMENT AND PREFERABLY AS SOON AFTER PHASE I SIGNATURE AS POSSIBLE.

B. THE ALLIES SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS PERIOD CAN BE SHORTER THAN 18 MONTHS IF SOVIET WITHDRAWALS ARE COMPLETE OR WELL UNDERWAY EARLIER THAN THAT TIME. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE ALLIES SHOULD SEEK AN ANSWER FROM THE EAST AS TO HOW LONG THEIR WITHDRAWALS WOULD TAKE. END TEXT.

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